



Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV156-01
June 4, 2001

TO: Ray Aylesworth, Chairman, Flathead Reservation Fish & Wildlife Board, 520 Franklin St, Ronan, 59864
CSKT Fish & Wildlife Program, PO Box 278, Pablo, 59855
MFWP Commission
Wildlife Mitigation Advisory Committee
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office, Legal Unit, Lands, Wildlife
Mt Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Bldg., Helena 59620
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Joe Gutkoski, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th, Bozeman, 59715
Polson City Library, PO Box 820, Polson, 59860
Lake County Commissioners, 106 Fourth Ave. E, Polson, 59860
Rep. John Brueggeman, 321 Lakeview Drive, Polson, 59860-9317
Rep. Joey Jayne, 299 Lumpry Road, Arlee, 59821-9747
Sen. Mike Taylor, Box 152, Proctor, 59929-0152
USFWS Bison Range, Dave Wiseman, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, MT 59824
Big Sky Upland Bird Association, PO Box 9005, Missoula, 59807-9005
Mission Valley Pheasants Forever, Sid Rundell, 308 Hwy 93 S, Ronan, 59864
Ducks Unlimited, Great Plains Region, 2525 River Road, Bismarck, ND 58503-9011
Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute, PO Box 39, Charlo, 59824
Joe Ball, University of Montana Wildlife Coop Unit, 909 S Ave W, Missoula, 59801
MT Dept. of Transportation, PO Box 201001, Helena, 59620-1001
Polson Outdoors, Inc., Matt Bishop, PO Box 1432, Polson, 59860-1432
Warren Illi, Flathead Wildlife, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903
Flathead Audubon, PO Box 9173, Kalispell, 59904
Mountain Audubon, #1 Second Ave E, Suite C-179, Polson, 59860
Five Valleys Audubon, PO Box 8425, Missoula, 59807
Last Chance Audubon, PO Box 924, Helena, 59624
Lower Flathead Valley Community Foundation, Inc., William H. Edelman, 1050 Spring Creek Road, Ronan, 59864
Vic McAllister, CAC, 333 Light Road, Polson, 59860
Rob Shrider, CAC, 204 Hwy 93 S, Ronan, 59864

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area Palmer land acquisition.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft becomes the final EA. A copy of the Decision Document is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,


Daniel P. Vincent
Regional Supervisor

DV/nli
Enclosure

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Palmer Land Acquisition**

June 4, 2001

The proposed project is to purchase in fee title 116 acres of wetland and upland habitat owned by the Palmer family near Charlo, Montana. This property is located immediately adjacent to the MFWP Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area. The project would maintain and protect important nesting habitat for upland birds and migratory waterfowl. The project will also maintain and enhance existing wetlands located on the property. In addition to habitat issues, the project will provide for additional recreational use days in the area by the public, mostly in the form of upland game bird/migratory waterfowl hunting and birdwatching. The funding for this project (\$452,000) will come from MFWP hunting license dollars (state duck stamp and Habitat Montana), Mission Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Big Sky Upland Bird Club of Missoula, MFWP Wildlife Mitigation Program, and the Montana Department of Transportation.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and public comment received, all of which were favorable, I find that Alternative C (fee title acquisition) to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The Final Environmental Assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region One. Please direct requests and questions to:



Daniel P. Vincent, Regional Supervisor
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

6/4/01

Date

Lake